

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /083 W

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R 051230Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4447

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCOSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMOASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0252

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :PINS,PDEV,PINT,RH

SUBJ : RHODESIAN REACTION TO SITHOLE DETENTION

1. IN MARCH 4 STATEMENT ISSUED IN SALISBURY,AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL(ANC) PRESIDENT ABEL MUZOREWA EXPRESSED SHOCK OVER DETENTION OF ZANU LEADER NDABANINGI SITHOLE AND SAID THAT ANC WILL HOLD NO FURTHER TALKS WITH RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT UNTIL SITHOLE RELEASED. MUZORWA CHARGES THAT PRIME MINISTER SMITH WAS ATTEMPTING TO 'BULLDOZEUS INTO DISUNITY' BY ALLEGING THAT SITHOLE PLANNED

TO ASSASSINATE OPPONENTS. HE CALLED ON GOVT TO PROVE ALLEGATIONS IN OPEN COURT RATHER THAN BY HOLDING TRIAL IN CAMERA AS ANNOUNCED BY SMITH. MUZOREWA'S STATEMENT REPORTEDLY WAS APPROVED BY ZAPU LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO.

2. ZANU SECRETARY GENERAL ROBERT MUGABE,IN W. SALISBURY PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO OFFICIAL ANC STATEMENT,CALLED CHARGES AGAINST SITHOLE 'HEAP OF RUBBISH'. HE SAID

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ZANU

WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY TALKS UNTIL SITHOLE RELEASED
AND UNTIL THERE WAS CHANGE OF MIND BY GOVT AND WHITES
REGARDING 'ACCEPTANCE OF MAJORITY RULE NOW' MUGABE ALSO
SAID ZANU NOW WLD DO NOTHING 'TO INTERFERE WITH THE
PROGRESS OF GUERRILLA WAREFARE'.

3. PAT BASHFORD,PRESIDENT OF MULTIRACIAL CENTER PARTY,
URGED GOVT TO INVITE OBSERVER FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
OF JURISTS TO ATTEND SITHOLE TRIAL BECAUSE'EXTRAORDINARY
PRECAUTIONS' WERE NECESSARY TO ALLEVIATE SUSPICION OF UNFAIR
TRIAL. NORMER OPPOSITION MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND RHODESIAN
CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERT DR. AHRN PALLEY,LABELLED DETENTION
AS ACT OF GRO S POLITICAL STUPIDITY AND ADDED, 'MR.SMITH
HAS THROWN THE MATCH INTO THE PETROL TANK'.

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